

What is claimed

1. A dirt cup for a vacuum cleaner, comprising:
  - a housing defining a dirt collection chamber;
  - an inlet in said housing in fluid communication with said dirt collection chamber;
- 5 an outlet in said housing in fluid communication with said dirt collection chamber; and
  - an attachable and detachable filter holder on said housing external to said dirt collection chamber and downstream from said outlet.
2. The dirt cup of claim 1 further including a prefilter held on said housing across said outlet.
3. The dirt cup of claim 2, further including a filter in said filter holder.
4. The dirt cup of claim 3, wherein said filter includes a support and a pleated filter media.
5. The dirt cup of claim 4, wherein said prefilter is a screen.

6. The dirt cup of claim 4, wherein said housing includes a top wall, a first sidewall and a bottom wall.
7. The dirt cup of claim 6, wherein said inlet and said outlet are both in said first sidewall.
8. The dirt cup of claim 7, wherein said bottom wall is connected by a hinge to a second sidewall.
9. The dirt cup of claim 8, further including a first latch carried on said housing and securing said bottom wall in a closed position.
10. The dirt cup of claim 8 further including a second latch carried on said housing and securing said dirt cup to a vacuum cleaner.
11. The dirt cup of claim 1, further including a filter in said attachable and detachable filter holder.
12. The dirt cup of claim 11, wherein said filter includes a support and a pleated filter media.
13. The dirt cup of claim 12, wherein said prefilter is a screen.

14. The dirt cup of claim 12, wherein said housing includes a top wall, a first sidewall and a bottom wall.

15. The dirt cup of claim 14, wherein said inlet and said outlet are both in said first sidewall.

16. The dirt cup of claim 15, wherein said bottom wall is connected by a hinge to a second sidewall.

17. The dirt cup of claim 16, further including a first latch carried on said housing and securing said bottom wall in a closed position.

18. The dirt cup of claim 16 further including a second latch carried on said housing and securing said dirt cup to a vacuum cleaner.

19. A vacuum cleaner incorporating the dirt cup of claim 1.